MARVEL

29

AVX VS

BENDIS
DEODATO
BEREDO

THE NEW AVENGERS

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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NEW AVENGERS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

IRON MAN

DR. STRANGE

MISTER FANTASTIC

PROFESSOR X

THE SUB-MARINER

AVENGERS COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS HAS GIVEN LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, MS. MARVEL, MOCKINGBIRD, DAREDEVIL, SPIDER-MAN, DR. STRANGE, WOLVERINE, IRON FIST AND THE THING THE KEYS TO AVENGERS MANSION, A LIAISON IN THE CONTROVERSIAL FORM OF VICTORIA HAND, AND FREE REIN TO PROTECT THE WORLD ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT.

THE PHOENIX FORCE ARRIVED ON EARTH AND ITS POWER ENDED UP IN FIVE OF THE MOST ICONIC MUTANTS: CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, NAMOR, COLOSSUS AND MAGIK. WHILE THE PHOENIX FIVE ATTEMPT TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN THEIR IMAGE, THE AVENGERS TRY TO WRESTLE THE POWER AWAY FROM THEM, ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES OUTMANEUVERED AND OVERPOWERED AT EVERY TURN.

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BATTLE OF ANZIO, JANUARY 22, 1944.
IMPERIUS REX!
THINK HE WAS TALKIN' ABOUT YOU, CAP!
REALLY? BECAUSE THE SKULL WAS LOOKING DIRECTLY AT YOU WHEN HE--
KILL THE COSTUMED ALLIED INTERLOPERS!
DO NOT LET THEM LEAVE THE BEACH ALIVE!

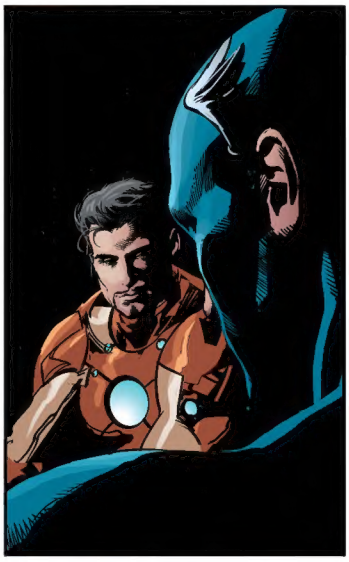
COVER ME, INVADERS!
WE TAKE OUT THIS BIG ROBOT'S BRAIN AND THE RED SKULL WILL HAVE NOTHING BUT A BIG HUNK OF JUNK TO SELL AT HIS PRISON CAMP FLEA MARKET!
PRISON CAMP FLEA MARKET?! DO PRISON CAMPS EVEN HAVE FLEA--?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, TORCH!
DO NOT BE DISTRACTED BY THEIR CIRCUS!
KILL THEM ALL!
AND YOUR REWARDS WILL BE MANY!
KTANG
CAP IS DOWN!
DIE, AMERICAN!

SLAPAAASSHH

NICE SAVE, NAMOR.
OF COURSE, CAPTAIN...
WE'RE BROTHERS.
FUNTIME, INC. A STARK ENTERPRISES SUBSIDIARY. NOW.
WELL, THIS WAS A BALLSY MOVE.

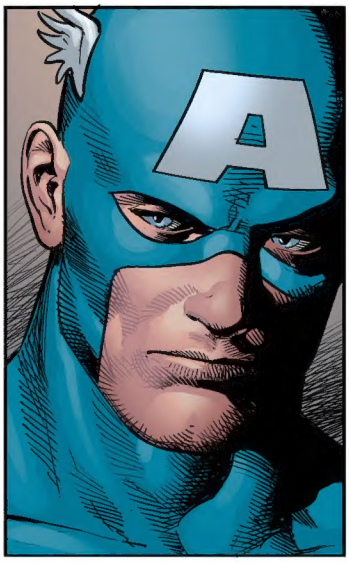
WE DON'T CALL THESE MEETINGS ANYMORE.
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE CALLED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE, TONY.
YOU'RE GOING TO START WITH ME ON THIS AGAIN?

SECRET MEETINGS TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE WORLD?
YOU JUST, RIGHT NOW, CALLED A SECRET MEETING TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE WORLD.
SO GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE.



HE WON'T COME.

HE WILL.
I KNOW HIM TOO.
HE WON'T.
I KNOW HIM.
DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE DAY HE WAS GOING TO JOIN UP WITH CYCLOPS AND USE A COSMIC FORCE OF DESTRUCTION TO MAKE THE WORLD OVER IN HIS IMAGE?



BECAUSE I DID.
GENTLEMEN...

TELEPORTATION SPELL OF THE NADIYAN, BOOK OF FIRE, PAGE 234.
DOCTOR STRANGE.
PLEASE TELL ME NOW... IS THERE A HIDDEN AGENDA TO THIS MEETING?
THERE'S A HIDDEN AGENDA TO EVERY MEETING IN THE WORLD.
BUT FAR AS I CAN TELL, THIS ONE IS AS ADVERTISED.
THIS IS ABOUT CAP AND NAMOR.
NAMOR WILL NOT COME HERE.
CAP THINKS HE WILL.
THEY USED TO FIGHT TOGETHER IN WORLD WAR TWO, DIDN'T YOU KNOW.
TONY...
CAP THINKS IF HE CAN JUST LOOK HIM IN THE EYE AND GIVE HIM THE OLD "INVADERS BAND OF BROTHERS SECRET HANDSHAKE AND CHEST BUMP" HE CAN GET NAMOR TO BACK OFF AND MAYBE GET CYCLOPS TO SOBER UP AND END ALL OF THIS.
WELL, IT'S WORTH A TRY.
THANK YOU.
BUT HE'S NOT COMING.
SOOTHING SPELL OF AGAMOTTO, SCROLLS OF AGAMOTTO.
HE MIGHT.
NOTHING WOULD SURPRISE ME ANYMORE.

NOTHING AT ALL.
XAVIER.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THOSE KIDS?
EXCUSE ME?
ALL I KNOW IS--THEY GO TO YOUR SCHOOL AND THEY ALL TURN NUTS.
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
TONY...
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.
IT WAS A-A JOKE.
A BAD JOKE.
I'M TIRED.
I WAS JOKING.
YOU WERE NOT.
I CAN READ YOUR MIND.
YOU THINK THIS IS PARTLY MY FAULT.
AND MAYBE IT IS.
BUT SCOTT SUMMERS IS A GROWN MAN.
AND HE IS HIS OWN MAN.
I KNOW.
THIS IS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I TAUGHT HIM.
SO WHY DON'T YOU GO TALK TO HIM?
I HAVE.
WHY DON'T YOU SWITCH OFF HIS BRAIN AND LET US GET BACK TO THE DOCTOR DOOMS OF THE WORLD?
WHY DON'T YOU USE ONE OF THE INFINITY GEMS ON HIM?
YOU HAVE ONE.
WE ALL DO.
THAT'S NOT ON THE TABLE, CHARLES.
BUT IT IS.
EACH OF YOU ARE THINKING IT.
WHY DON'T WE USE THE GEMS TO MAKE THE PHOENIX DISAPPEAR BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS--
BECAUSE IF WE CROSS THAT LINE, WE'RE PRETTY MUCH DONE FOR AS A SPECIES.

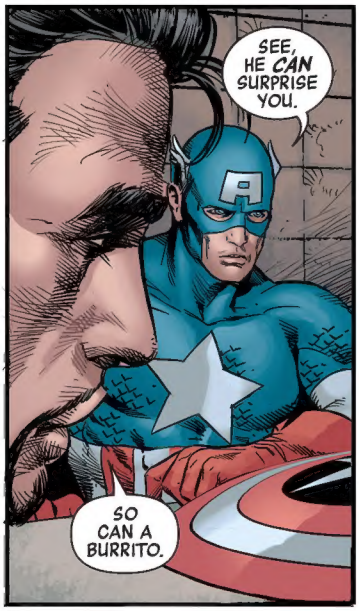
DOCTOR RICHARDS.
DOCTOR STRANGE.
YOU GUYS LOVE CALLING YOURSELF DOCTOR.
I HAVE THREE DOCTORATES, YOU DON'T SEE ME--

DOCTOR STARK.
THANK YOU.
AND JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR...
WE DO NOT TOUCH THE INFINITY GEMS.
WE DO NOT USE ONE UNCONTROLLABLE COSMIC FORCE TO FIGHT ANOTHER.

NO ONE IS EVEN HINTING AT IT.
YES.
DOES EVERYONE KNOW THAT THEIRS IS SAFE?
YES.
MINE'S IN THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN A WELLS FARGO FRANCHISE IN PORTLAND, OREGON.
NOT KIDDING.

HAVE WE HEARD FROM NAMOR?
NO.
AND WE WON'T.
HE MIGHT.
WE'LL SEE.

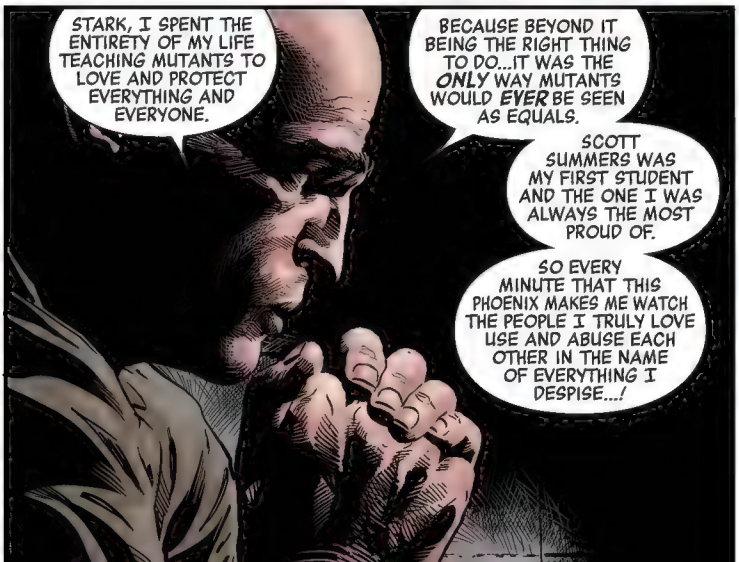
I WAS SURPRISED HE EVER GOT TOGETHER WITH US IN THE FIRST PLACE.

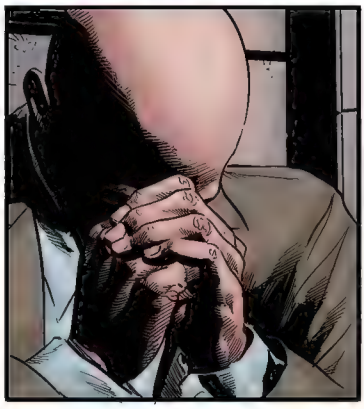

SEE, HE CAN SURPRISE YOU.
SO CAN A BURRITO.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
IT MEANS I HAD A BURRITO LAST NIGHT AND IT'S SURPRISING ME NOW.
LISTEN, THEY'RE NOT ALL WINNERS...

YOU TALKED TO SUMMERS?
WHAT DID HE SAY?

I'M NOT MAKING FUN.
HONESTLY, WHAT DID HE SAY?
IS THERE ANYTHING THERE WE CAN WORK WITH?


STARK, I SPENT THE ENTIRETY OF MY LIFE TEACHING MUTANTS TO LOVE AND PROTECT EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.
BECAUSE BEYOND IT BEING THE RIGHT THING TO DO...IT WAS THE ONLY WAY MUTANTS WOULD EVER BE SEEN AS EQUALS.
SCOTT SUMMERS WAS MY FIRST STUDENT AND THE ONE I WAS ALWAYS THE MOST PROUD OF.
SO EVERY MINUTE THAT THIS PHOENIX MAKES ME WATCH THE PEOPLE I TRULY LOVE USE AND ABUSE EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF EVERYTHING I DESPISE...!



I'M SORRY.
NO...I'M SORRY.
NO ONE'S BLAMING YOU, PROFESSOR.
YOU ALL ARE.
I CAN... READ YOUR MINDS.
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO.
WELL, I AM.
AND YOU DO BLAME ME.
I BLAME MYSELF.
I DEDICATED MY LIFE TO THESE CHILDREN AND IT'S ALL GONE TO HELL.
I AM HAVING A HARD TIME NOT SEEING THAT MY ENTIRE LIFE WAS IN VAIN.
SO DAMN YOU ALL FOR BLAMING ME.
CHARLES.
I'M PREPARED TO END THIS, YOU KNOW.
I'M PREPARED TO STOP SCOTT, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.
BUT HE'S MY SON.
I-I-I KEEP WAITING FOR HIM TO SNAP OUT OF IT.
TO REMEMBER WHAT I'VE TAUGHT HIM!
INSTEAD, I GET A ROOM FULL OF YOU--
YOU ALL WITH ALL YOUR DEMONS... BLAMING ME.
CHARLES!
I UNDERSTAND HIM.
IF THIS WAS ONE OF MY FAMILY, IT WOULD KILL ME...
WHERE ARE YOU IN ALL THIS?

PLAYING CATCH-UP. A LITTLE TORN.
THERE'S AN ARGUMENT THAT SAYS CYCLOPS IS FIXING THE WORLD.
THE MATH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND--
WHAT?
YES, I KNOW, YOU SAY: BUT AT WHAT COST?
BUT, AND HEAR ME OUT, BETWEEN US, THIS ISN'T LIKE GALACTUS OR AN ALIEN INVASION.
THIS ISN'T SOMEONE TRYING TO RUIN US.
THEY ARE ALLIES AND THEY ARE FIXING THINGS.
THE ONLY ONES GETTING HURT HERE ARE YOU BECAUSE YOU KEEP POKING THEM WITH A STICK.
WILL IT GO THE OTHER WAY? WILL THEY LOSE CONTROL? MAYBE.
BUT ONE MIGHT SAY THAT'S TOMORROW'S PROBLEM.
BECAUSE THEY ARE POSSESSED OF A COSMIC DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THAT THEY CANNOT CONTROL!
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU, REED, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS?
I'M SAYING IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED.
I'M STILL RESEARCHING ON MY END. THE NUMBERS: CRIME, FATALITIES, IT'S ALL--
I'M JUST SAYING THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT.
AND CONSIDERING YOU TWO BROUGHT THE WORLD TO WAR OVER DIFFERING IDEALS, I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME SEEING THAT THERE MIGHT BE MORE THAN ONE WAY TO LOOK AT ALL OF THIS.
ASK YOURSELF, HONESTLY...

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE PHOENIX BECAUSE YOU THINK HE'LL LOSE CONTROL OF IT?
OR ARE YOU WORRIED THAT, WITH THE PHOENIX UNDER CONTROL, THE WORLD IS GOING TO BE A BETTER PLACE WITH NO PLACE FOR YOU IN IT?

AND LISTEN, IF THE PHOENIX IS TAMED, IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU.
YOU CREATED THE DEVICE THAT BROKE IT APART, RIGHT?
LIKE THE ACCIDENT THAT CREATED PENICILLIN, YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE MORE RIGHT WITH AN ACCIDENT THAN MOST PEOPLE WILL EVER DO ON PURPOSE.

IF THINGS SETTLE, AND THIS IS THE WORLD NOW, TAKE PRIDE IN THAT.

AND IF IT DOESN'T?

WELL, THEN YOU HAVE A POINT.

SO YOU'RE READY FOR THE WORLD TO CHANGE THIS MUCH, THIS FAST, THIS UNNATURALLY...
YOU HONESTLY THINK THIS IS OKAY?

I'M NOT SURE WHAT IS NATURAL ANYMORE.
I DON'T THINK I EVER KNEW.
BUT YES, ME, I'M READY FOR HUMANITY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.
I'VE BEEN READY FOR A WHILE.
CAPTAIN, DOCTORS...
DID YOU CATCH THE PART WHERE HE SAID THIS IS ALL MY FAULT?
YEP.
I THINK HE DYES HIS SIDEBURNS TO MAKE HIMSELF LOOK SMARTER.
JUST SAYIN'.
NAMOR'S NOT COMING.
AND I HAVE WORK TO DO.
CAPTAIN, I'LL AWAIT YOUR ORDER.

LET'S GO.
NO. I'M GOING TO GO.
I'LL WAIT.

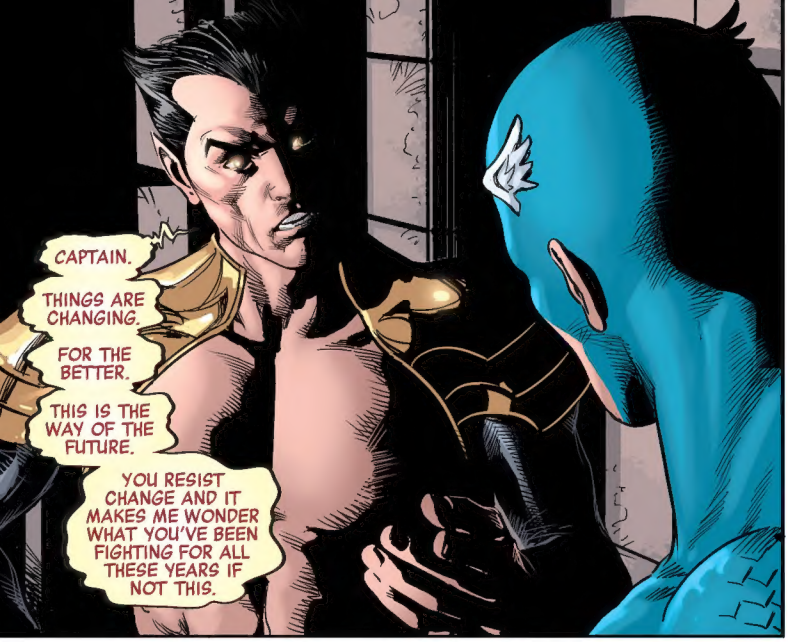
STEVE...
...HE'S NOT COMING.

TONY, THIS THING WITH SCOTT SUMMERS...
RICHARDS WAS TALKING ABOUT NUMBERS. I HAVE NUMBERS IN MY HEAD TOO.
WE CAN'T WIN.
NO MATTER WHAT ANGLE YOU LOOK AT THE FIGHT FROM: THE X-MEN ARE GOING TO TAKE US DOWN.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THEY WIN, WE LOSE.
THIS, HERE, NOW, NAMOR IS OUR ONLY CHANCE.

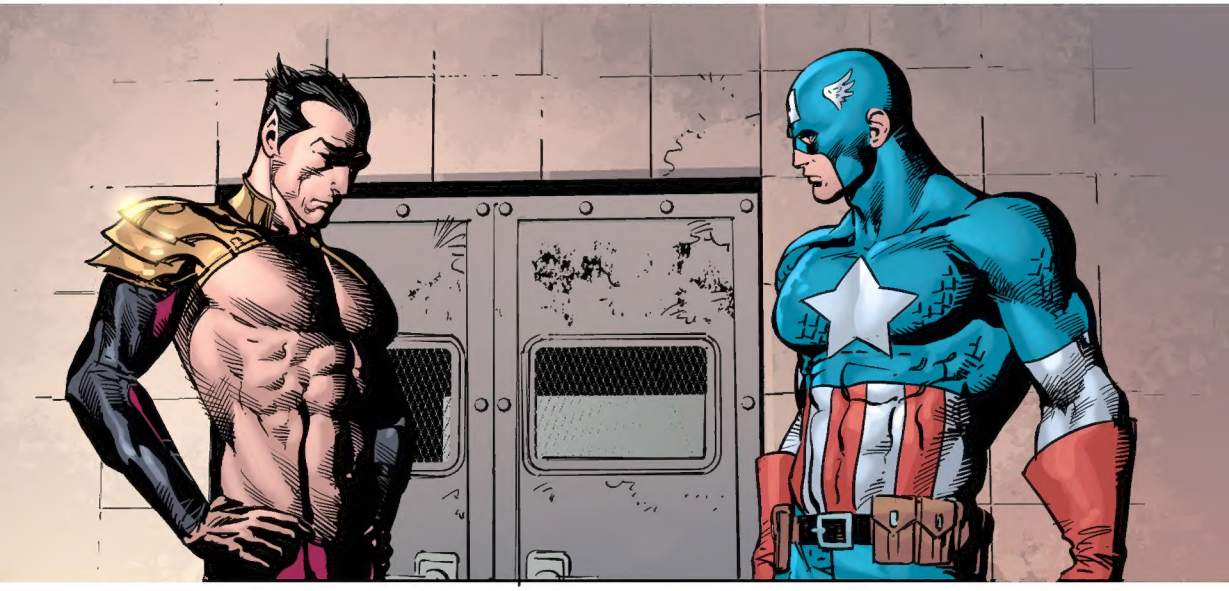
MAYBE.
DEFINITELY.
COME ON...

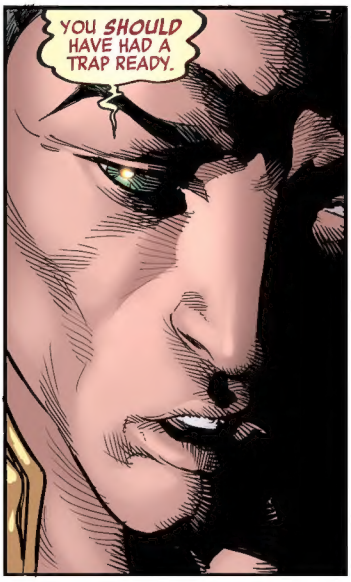
I FEEL BAD ABOUT XAVIER.
HE GOT SOME STUFF OFF HIS CHEST.
YEAH, BUT STILL...
BE NICER TO PEOPLE. DON'T BE SO AGGRESSIVE. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS.
I ONLY DO THAT WHEN I'M TIRED, HUNGRY OR FRUSTRATED.
OR ANY COMBINATION OF THE THREE.
I KNOW.
SEE YOU AT THE CLUBHOUSE, CAPTAIN.

I KNEW YOU'D COME.
I'M HAPPY TO SEE THIS WAS NOT A TRAP.
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT TO YOU.
YOU'RE HERE TO TALK SENSE TO ME.
THAT MAY BE WORSE.
YOU'RE AN AVENGER.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
HELP?
ALLEGIANCE.
BEFORE I WAS AN AVENGER...I WAS A MUTANT AND A KING.
YOU NEED TO STOP THIS.
THIS IS GOING TO END BADLY.
I KNOW YOU THINK SO.
TELL ME YOU HAVE MORE.
I'M ASKING, AS MY BROTHER IN ARMS, AS MY FELLOW SOLDIER...
AS AN INVADER AND AS AN AVENGER...
STOP.


CAPTAIN.
THINGS ARE CHANGING.
FOR THE BETTER.
THIS IS THE WAY OF THE FUTURE.
YOU RESIST CHANGE AND IT MAKES ME WONDER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR ALL THESE YEARS IF NOT THIS.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST PEOPLE WHO PUT THEMSELVES BEFORE OTHERS.
WHO THINK THEMSELVES THE SUPERIOR RACE.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M STILL DOING IT.




YOU *SHOULD* HAVE HAD A TRAP READY.

I SAID I WOULD NEVER DO THAT TO YOU.
WE'RE BROTHERS.

NEXT ISSUE: GROUND LEVEL

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Megan!